

THE WEEK'S ATTRACTIONS AT WASHINGTON'S THEATERS.



John J. Farrell, at the Academy.

THE past week will be recalled for a good many days by local patrons of the theater with much pleasure, principally by reason of the fact that it brought back to the Capital City Miss Percy Haswell, for more than one season the leading lady of local stock companies, in the capacity of a star.

In "A Royal Family," as presented at the Columbia, Miss Haswell scored a pronounced personal success, and with the aid of an exceptionally well-balanced organization gave excellent performances of Captain Marshall's play.

At the National a mediocre musical comedy, "My Annetta," drew audiences fully as large as the merits—or demerits—of the entertainment deserved. The Pike stock company, a Cincinnati company, played "The Christian" at the Lafayette Square Theater with much more than ordinary success. The company includes a good leading man in Byron Douglas and an exceptionally promising actress in Mary Hall, whose glory was original in conception and intellectual in treatment. The audiences during the week were large enough to more than task the seating capacity of the theater after the Tuesday performance.

Manager Chase's headline feature was the Ten Juhl troupe of Japanese magicians, and supplementing this act were a number of other excellent vaudeville turns that completed a first-class program and pleased a series of large gatherings.

The Academy prospered wonderfully with a new popular-priced star, Lottie Williams Salter, in "Only a Shop Girl." At the Empire, the Murray and Mack "Shooting the Chutes" company played to big houses, while at the Lyceum the Merry Maidens gave a conventional burlesque show to uniformly good business.

"The Defender" at the National.

Tomorrow evening "The Defender," a nautical musical extravaganza, which comes to Washington from the Herald Square Theater, New York, where it has been successfully presented during the past two months, will begin a week's engagement at the National Theater.

"The Defender," which is decidedly nautical in flavor, is the work of Allen Lowe, who contributed the book, and Charles Dennee, who furnished the score. The production was made by A. H. Chamberlyn, and report says that it is one of the most gorgeously mounted musical shows that has ever been presented in this country.

The play has to do with the social adventures of an English sportsman, one Sir Thomas Teaton, who comes to America to sail his racing craft against the yacht Defender for the America's Cup.

A plot connected by another Englishman to scuttle the Yankee boat, the love affairs of a young Briton of title and an American heiress, and Sir Thomas' introduction to the smart set by Mrs. Jack Orchid, a society radiat, furnish plenty of material for situations laughable and otherwise.

The comedy interest is sustained by Alexander Clark as Sam Keno, of the Vaudeville; Will A. Armstrong as Sir Thomas Teaton; Charles Wayne as a bibulous detective; Gilbert Clayton as a mysterious plotter, and Gordon Thompson as Nan Kuff, the bosun. Richie Ling is the gallant lover, and George Allison portrays the character of Tom Plinksen, who has a racing boat that does not race.

The feminine members of the cast include Emma Carus, Clara Lavine, Lotta Faust, Edith Eldridge, Mayme Kelso, Grace Spencer, and Amy Ashmore. The principals will have an environment of beautiful choristers, the pick of New York's most stunning show girls.

The Popular "Liberty Belles."

The attraction at the Columbia Theater this week will be Klaw & Erlanger's Troubadours and Harry Giffoll, the comedian, in Harry B. Smith's musical comedy, "The Liberty Belles."

This is the production which, it will be remembered, opened its season at

this house a year ago, and subsequently went to the Madison Square Theater in New York, where for four months it held the stage to large receipts.

The story, which is in the main entirely humorous, with a pleasing sentimental interest interpolated, is told in three acts.

The scenes represent the dormitory of a young ladies' seminary, the cooking school of "The Liberty Belles," and a hotel in Florida. Specialties and musical numbers are plentifully interspersed throughout the action of this bright little play, and from start to finish there is not a dull moment in it.

It was constructed for laughing purposes only, and well fulfills its intent, keeping the audience keyed up to a high pitch of hilarity from the beginning to the end.

The scenes and costumes are described as unusually elaborate for a production of this kind, and again in this respect have Klaw & Erlanger proved their liberality as producers.

In conjunction with Mr. Giffoll, Miss Violet Dale, Miss Katie Rooney, the Sisters McCoy, Mr. Harry Linton, and Mr. John Gilroy will appear in the principal characters.

"Phroso" Will Mystify Chaselles.

Phroso, who comes this week to Chase's Theater, is one of the sensational attractions of the vaudeville year, and already in the cities where Phroso has been exhibited the height of public interest has been manifested by the largest audiences ever gathered to witness a vaudeville novelty.

Press reports indicate that the vaudeville public is pretty evenly divided on the question whether or not Phroso is a man or automaton. One thing is certain it walks and talks.

The second principal feature will be Tom Eck's motor cycle sensation. The act introduces the veteran rider and manager, Tom Eck, and also the crack motormen—Stone, Judge, and Armstrong—together with Miss Lottie Brandon, the champion lady bicyclist of the world, and the only one to execute successfully the ride on a bicycle around "the loop the loop."

Another novelty will be supplied by Joseph Maxwell and five actors and singers, who will present an original musical comedy, "The Fire Chief."

James F. Dolan and Ida Lenharr will appear in Mr. Dolan's latest farcical success, "Taking Chances." Edward Gray, the mimic and comedian, who has succeeded to the place held in the public esteem by the late Kelly, "the rolling mill man," is another feature.

Miss Elizabeth Murray, one of the foremost monologists, will be heard. Silver and Emerle, the ring and webbing experts, will execute daring mid-air feats, and Snyder and Buckley, the musical comedians, will appear in an amusing nondescript specialty.

The Cattle and Bandit Kings.

James H. Wallick will bring his two successful melodramas, "The Cattle King" and "The Bandit King" to the Academy of Music this week. "The Bandit King" to be given during the first half of the engagement, and "The Cattle King," the latter part of the week.

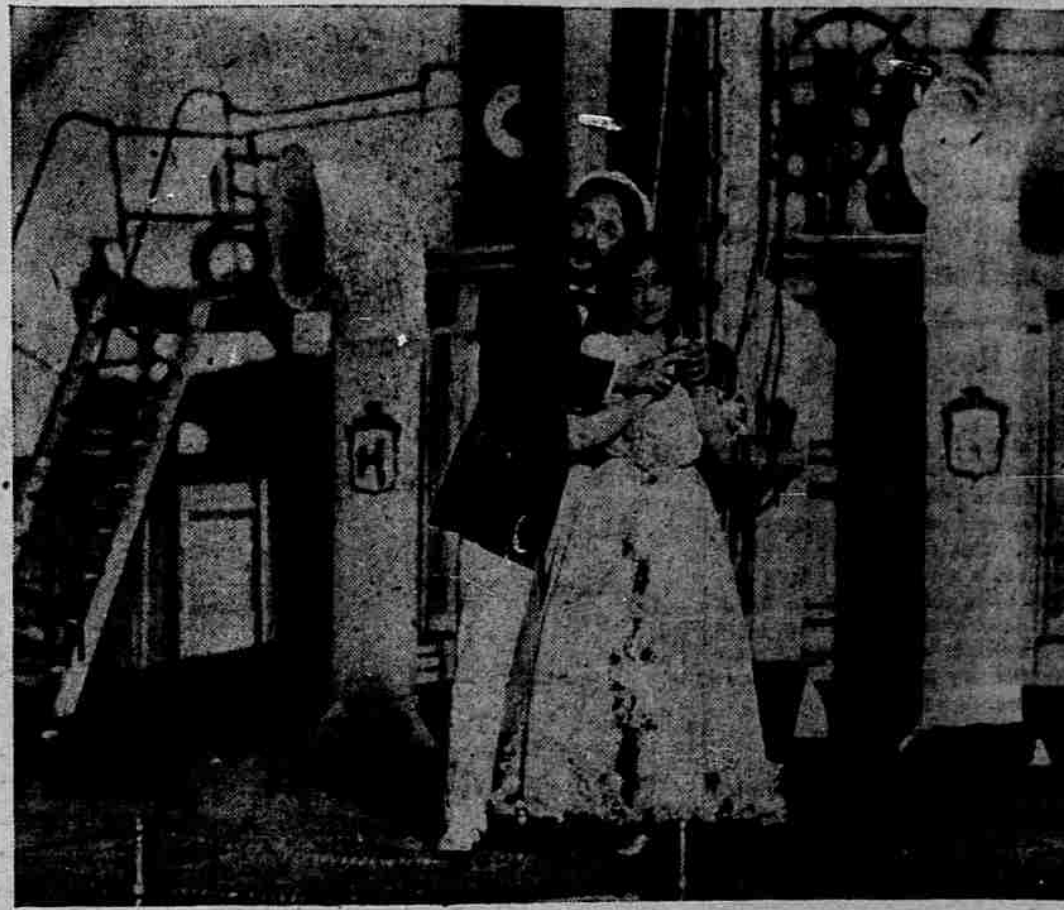
These plays made quite a large fortune for their owner several years ago, and in England they were almost as popular as in this country. In the days when these splendid examples of stage thrillers were first produced, Mr. Wallick appeared in the principal roles himself and made a very commanding figure, as will be recalled by all who witnessed the plays. Recently, however, he has branched out into theatrical management, and it is on account of his varied interests in this direction that he is not to be seen in his old parts at the Academy this week.

However, he has secured as a substitute a first-class actor, in John J. Farrell, said to possess much the same magnetism and physical vigor that characterized the work of Mr. Wallick years ago.

A special feature of the presentation of "The Bandit King" and "The Cattle



Eugenie Blair, at the Lafayette.



Scene from "The Defender," at the National.



Dolan and Lenharr, at Chase's.



Scene from "The Liberty Belles," at the Columbia.

King" will be the introduction of trained horses, eight in all.

There have been a number of new features introduced in the Wallick plays since they were last seen in Washington, one of the principal innovations being a trotting scene, something that has never been shown in any native play.

"The Cattle King" will be given for the first time at the Thursday matinee.

Eugenie Blair in "Zaza."

The season thus far at the Lafayette Theater under its new management has been notable for the excellence of the attractions when one considers the schedule of popular prices that prevail. Manager LaMotte will offer his patrons this week another first-class production in "Zaza," with Miss Eugenie Blair in the part originated by Mrs. Carter.

The management of the venture has secured the entire equipment of scenery, properties, furniture, and the like, that made the original production of the play one of the most perfect of its day. Miss Blair is expected to prove an admirable successor to Mrs. Carter in the role of the impulsive, reckless, loving, hysterical, heartbroken and finally triumphant heroine of the music hall. She has already, in previous efforts, given evidences of the possession of an ability of much the same sort as that of Mrs. Carter, and it is no difficult matter to imagine her as the heroine of the Belasco adaptation.

Miss Blair's company will include the following: Mr. Alanson Lessey, Miss Eleanor Montell, Miss Katherine de Barry, Mr. Clifford Hipple, Mr. Frederick Ellis Duff, Frederick Backus, Oscar Apfel, Theodore Spanton, Little Hazel, Lillian Pearson, Helen Craven, Gertrude Stanley, Cora Wells, Marion Herbert, and Mercedes Carrington.

The first performance of "Zaza" will

be given at the matinee tomorrow. There will also be matinee Wednesday and Saturday.

Moonlight Maids Burlesquers.

"The Moonlight Maids" are underlined to appear at the Lyceum Theater this week, commencing with the regular matinee tomorrow.

The company of thirty-five will be seen in the original burlesque, entitled "A Day and Night," which is claimed to be the best of its kind on the road. It is said to have a connected story, and is made beautiful by the presence of a good-sized chorus of girls. "A Day and Night" is in two acts, and tells of the adventures of a school girl who fell out of a balloon and into the arms of a circus fakir just in time to be made "Queen of the Arena."

"A Warm Match" at the Empire.

Manager Schlesinger, of the Empire Family Theater, is uncommonly enthusiastic over his attraction this week, and promises that it will prove the most satisfying entertainment that has been seen at his playhouse in many a day.

His opinion of the merits of the attraction, Crimmins and Gore in "A Warm Match," a farce comedy, is gained from the newspaper reports in the cities in which the piece has already been presented this season and personal letters from managers of the theaters in which the play has been given.

All these are laudatory to a remarkable degree, hence Mr. Schlesinger's optimistic heralding of the company. Crimmins and Gore are two exceptionally clever and well known vaudeville performers whose successes are not confined to this country by any means, as they are almost as well known in England and the principal continental cities as in their native land. The vehicle for the amusement of their

patrons is reputed to be replete with all the elements that count for success in a show of this kind. The lines, in the first place, are said to be actually funny, not of the slap-sticky order of humor, but of good, straight, clean humor. There is plenty of action, an abundance of new songs are introduced during the three acts, and a host of girls add to the attractiveness of the ensembles.

Surely, these features should make "A Warm Match" a substantial success.

"The Power of Truth."

At the opening of the present season the management of the Empire Theater made it known that farce comedies and

melodramas of a good standard would be seen at that theater.

Thus far several farce comedy organizations have been seen, and next week the first melodramatic production of the season will be made. "The Power of Truth," a drama which is said to be of intense heart interest, and one in which a number of thrilling incidents are depicted, is the title of the play which will hold the Empire's stage that week.

Frank Daniels' "Miss Simplicity."

Frank Daniels, who returns to Washington next week at the Columbia in "Miss Simplicity," found this composition to be such a success throughout his tour last season that he and his man-

ager, Mr. Kirke La Shelle, have decided that it will be unwise for the Daniels company to appear in any other offering for at least another year.

Mr. Daniels' tour this season will, therefore, comprise, for the most part, a series of return engagements.

Most of the clever people who supported Mr. Daniels last season have been retained, and the company includes Will Danforth, Frank Turner, Mark Lane, Grafton Lever, Grace Orr Myers, Kate Vart, Florence Holbrook and Isabelle D'Armonde.

"A Ragged Hero" Will Thrill.

Next week one of the Academy's big successes of last season, "A Ragged Hero," will be the "card."

It is a thrilling story of New England life. The characters are simple and human, and while the situations are numerous, they are not impossible.

Black-Faced Fun Makers.

Minstrel companies come and go, but Primrose and Dockstader's flows on forever. Be it early in the season or late toward its close this big minstrel firm gives an excellent program as is promised and carefully meet all dates on time appointed. They recognize the fact that the public wants black-face in minstrelsy of the Southern plantation type, and so all don the burnt cork.

Primrose and Dockstader will be the attraction at the New National Theater next week.

Miss Eldridge a Choir Graduate.

Miss Edith Eldridge, who is singing the prima donna music with "The Defender," is a newcomer to the stage, and is a very lucky young woman, having stepped directly from the Conservatory of Music in Boston into one of the leading roles of so prominent a Broadway attraction as the Chamberlyn production. The young woman is a grand-niece of Commodore Cushing, of the United States Navy, and the daughter of Madame Cushing-Ely, a concert singer of fame.

Miss Eldridge is scarcely twenty-one, and until last June confined her vocal efforts to the choir of a fashionable Boston church.

It was at the Park Street Church that she was soprano soloist at the time she signed a contract with Manager Chamberlyn for the part allotted to her that

Crimmins and Gore, at the Empire.